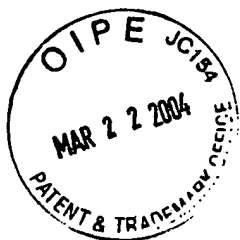


3653
Image



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of: DIMITRI ET AL.
Serial Number: 09/757,971
Filed: January 10, 2001
For: AUTOMATED STORAGE SYSTEM ...
Group: 3653
Examiner: Jeffrey A. Shapiro DOCKET: TUC920000072US1

The Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

On February 16, 2004, Dale F. Regelman, attorney for Applicants, and Examiner Jeffrey A. Shapiro conducted a telephonic interview. Mr. Regelman earlier faxed a Proposed Amendment C to Examiner Shapiro for his consideration.

In that Proposed Amendment C, the Applicants proposed to amend claims 1, 10, and 19, to recite a first rail system oriented along a first axis direction, i.e. the "X" axis. The Applicants further proposed to amend independent claims 1, 10, and 19, to recite that each accessor includes a running section and a vertical pillar extending outwardly from that carriage along a second axis, i.e. the "Z" axis, such that a lifting servo section can be moved bidirectionally in that second direction along the vertical pillar, where that second axis is perpendicular to the first axis. The Applicants further proposed to amend independent claims 1, 10, and 19, to recite a movable rail system comprising a plurality of movable sets of rails, wherein each set of movable rails can be moved bidirectionally along a third axis, wherein said

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third axis is perpendicular to both said first axis and said third axis.

Mr. Regelman and Examiner Shapiro discussed the proposed amendments in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,262,863 in the name of Ostwald et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,022,180 in the name of Moyoyama et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 6,449,223, in the name of Kanetsuku et al.

Examiner Shapiro stated that the references discussed would not render the proposed amended claims unpatentable. Examiner Shapiro further stated, however, that he would need to search the art before deciding whether the proposed amended claims were patentable. Examiner Shapiro recommended the Applicants file an RCE, and submit Proposed Amendment C as a Preliminary Amendment in that RCE. On February 27, 2004, Applicants filed an RCE, and submitted a Preliminary Amendment comprising the earlier Proposed Amendment C.

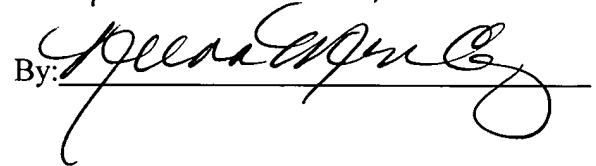
Respectfully submitted,



Dale F. Regelman
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 45,625

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on March 18, 2004, at Tucson, AZ.

By: 

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